

The Fruit of Insecurity

Insights from Daniel 5:1-31 (Living Rooted in Babylon pt 6)
Pastor Bob Johnson, October 18th, 2020

1. Banquet is S_____

King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand. 2 Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. 3 Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. 4 They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. Daniel 5:1-4 (ESV)

2. King is S_____

Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. 6 Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together. Daniel 5:5-6 (ESV)

3. Advice is S_____

The king called loudly to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers. The king declared to the wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing, and shows me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom." ... 8 but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation. 9 Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, and his color changed, and his lords were perplexed.

Daniel 5:7-9 (ESV)

4. Queen is S_____

The queen ... came into the banqueting hall, and the queen declared, "O king, live forever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change. 11 There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him ... 12 because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation."

Daniel 5:10-12 (ESV)

5. King is S_____

Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king answered and said to Daniel, “You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah. 14 I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you ... 16 I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.”

Daniel 5:13-16 (ESV)

6. Daniel is S_____

Then Daniel answered ...“Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation. ... 20 But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne ...22 And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this ... the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored. 24 Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed.”

Daniel 5:17-24 (ESV)

7. Empire is S_____

And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. 26 This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; 27 TEKEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; 28 PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

Daniel 5:25-28 (ESV)

8. Judgment is S_____

Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. 30 That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. 31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom ...

Daniel 5:29-31 (ESV)

Truths Related To Insecurity:

1. P _____ denial
2. P _____ others down
3. P _____ learning
4. P _____ by Christ

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GPC's "Living Rooted in Babylon" Small Group Discussion of Daniel (Week Six of our Eight-Week Study and Discussion of Daniel 1-6)

Check - in If you can't think of a better ice breaker question ... try this one :)

In Daniel 5, Belshazzar hosted a huge banquet that God chose to interrupt with some 'writing on the wall'. Speaking of banquets ... if you could choose the menu for a banquet that would suit your tastebuds ... what would you choose?

After the nice dinner of your choice, if you had an unlimited budget, what would you choose for entertainment?

One more ... if you could choose anywhere around San Diego for this memorable banquet, where would you like it to be?

Pause and Pray: Be still and know that He is God...God who is present with you, loving you. Surrender yourself to His love. Let's open our hearts, lives and minds to whatever it is He wants to do with us. (pause)... Pray with one another.

Look back on your message outline or look back over Daniel 5:1-30 ...

What has continued to resonate with you from Sunday's message?

Digging Deeper:

1. Though the events recounted in Daniel 5 took place at the very end of King Belshazzar's reign, long after the events reported in Daniel 7 and 8, Daniel chose to place them right after the events described in Daniel 4. Why might that be?

What point was Daniel making by putting the story of God's judgment against Belshazzar right after his account of God's judgment -- and restoration -- of Nebuchadnezzar?

How is the story of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4 similar and different from King Belshazzar's story in Daniel 5?

Both worshipped idols. One eventually repented and worshipped the One True God. In our day and time, what is an idol? Tim Keller writes in his book, *Counterfeit Gods*, "An idol is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give." How can you identify these idols?

How can you tell if you are worshipping a counterfeit God?

Keller says: "A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living."

Is there anything that God brings to mind when you reflect on this? Would you like the group to pray for you about this?

2. Insecurity led Belshazzar to self-sufficiency. He was scared about what was happening around him and knew that he was not able to control his circumstances. To deflect his attention and the attention of those around him from the reality closing in on them, he planned a party to escape and numb him from it all. Is there something you do to numb or deflect the concerns around you and in you? There are a lot of options to numb. Until we deal with security, our “drug of choice” is going to be a powerful pull on our lives.

3. When confronted with the mysterious hand writing on the wall—Belshazzar is terrified. The queen encourages him to call for Daniel. Daniel starts by giving Belshazzar a sermon. What are the main ideas Daniel is hoping to pass on to him in Daniel 5:18-23?

Past or present, who are you aware of, good or bad, that God wants you to learn from? What wisdom have you gained from their words or example? What lessons did you NOT have to learn for yourself because they went before you?

4. The interpretation Daniel gives (v. 28, 30) is a prophecy that will be fulfilled that very night. But it is also a beginning to the fulfillment of the prophecy in Daniel 2 (and also Isaiah 13:17-22, Isaiah 21:1-10 and Jeremiah 51:33-58).

God again demonstrates His control over kings and kingdoms and that His plan will not be thwarted. How does this make you feel about your unknown future? Does this encourage you? Does this challenge you? How so....

5. How has this chapter demonstrated that seventy years of life under Babylon's influence had not broken down Daniel's convictions?

Does this have meaning for you? How so...

6. Daniel 5:30 has an ominous ring to it.
For a similar story and outcome, read Luke 12:13-21.

Both the man in Jesus' parable and Belshazzar had focused more on selfish desires than helping others.

What can we learn from these men about living our lives with Godly passion and priorities?

Wrapping Up:

As we wrap up our discussion, what is one thing that you would like to reflect more about from this week's message and what we discussed as we seek to apply God's truths to our everyday lives?

Lastly ... let's pray for one another and whatever else God has laid on our hearts to life up to Him.